(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the Chemical Weapons Conventio (CWC) is to prohibit the use, development, pro duction, acquisition, stockpiling or transferring of chemical weapons by any State party to the Convention. The complex and difficult negotia tions in which India played an ac tive role, were concluded in the Conference on Disarmament after 12 years, in September 199'2. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) ad opted it by consensus and India co-sponsored the resolution in the UNGA. At the signing ceremony in Paris (13-15 January 1993), 130 co untries joined the CWC as original signatories. The Convention comes into force 180 days after the date of deposit of the 65th Instrument of Ratification, but in no case earlier than two years after its opening for signature. The CWC is a multilater. ally negotiated disarmament agree ment which is unifyersfally applica ble, comprehensive in scope anc non-discriminatory in character with a stringent international verifica tion regime. Thus the objectives oi the CWC are in accordance with India's disarmament policy.

Closing of India-Pakistan Borders

200. DR. SANJAYA SINK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFF-AIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pak istan is considering to close its borders with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; anc

(c) what is the reaction of Gov. ernment thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAI AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) (a) *No,* Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Pakistan 'n possession of atomic bombs

201. DR. ' SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL, AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports of Pakistan possessing half-a-dozen atomic bombs;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH STNGH): (a) and (b) Government are aware of press reports in this regard.

(c) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearin' or. India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

202. *[Transferred to 2nd March,* 1993].

Fact finding team from OIC to Kashmir

203. SHRI S. K. T. RAM1ACHAND-RAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) sought the permission of Government to send a fact finding t:am to Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what was the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The OIC General Secretariat has been informed that no purpose would be served by the visit of the DIC team to Kashmir, which is an integral part of India and the exclusive responsibility of the Indian authorities and that the OIC's suggestion is unacceptable.